

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-10 TRSE-00 /065 W

----- 034151

R 080645Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0860

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SA

SUBJECT: AMNESTY OF POLITICAL DETAINEES

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A SAUDI NEWS AGENCY RELEASE
PUBLISHED IN THE SAUDI PRESS APRIL 7:

"THE ROYAL DIWAN HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF THE LATE KING FAISAL WHO RELEASED
PART OF THE DETAINEES WHO HAD BEEN CONVICTED FOR POLITICAL
REASONS AND WHO ALSO PERMITTED SOME OF THOSE WHO FLED THE
COUNTRY TO AVOID THE EXECUTION OF SENTENCES AGAINST THEM
TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY AND BECAUSE ALL OF THOSE WHO
WERE GRANTED AMNESTY AND PARDONED TURNED AOUT TO BE GOOD
ELEMENTS WHO HAVE SINCE PARTICIPATED IN SERVING THEIR
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RELITION AND THEIR COUNTRY, THEREFORE,

HIS MAJESTY KING KHALID BIN 'ABD AL-AZIZ HAS ORDERED THE
RELEASE OF ALL REMAINING CONVICTED DETAINEES AND GRANTED
AMNESTY AND PARDON TO ALL OF THOSE WHO WERE ACCUSED OR
CONVICTED FOR POLITICAL CASES AND ASKS THEM TO RETURN TO
THEIR COUNTRY IN ORDER THAT THEY MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN
SERVING THEIR COUNTRY AND DEVELOPING ITS PROSPERITY."

2. COMMENT. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE ARE REL-
ATIVELY FEW POLITICAL DETAINEES IN THE KINGDOM, PRIMARILY THE
50 OR SO PARTICIPANTS IN THE 1969 AIR FORCE PLOT
WHO HAVE NOT YET BEEN RELEASED. THERE MAY ALSO BE
SOME SHIA'S POLITICAL DISSIDENTS FROM THE EASTERN
PROVINCE. MOST OF THOSE AFFECTED ARE PROBABLY DISSIDENTS LIVING
ABROAD. WE DOUBT THEY NUMBER MORE THAN A COUPLE OF
HUNDRED.
AKINS

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